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# Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OIC-02 EB-08 TRSE-00 AID-05 STR-04 /099 W
----------170900Z 075084 /17
P R 170620Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7141
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION MTN GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, EINV, ASEAN
SUBJECT: EXTRAORDINARY SINGAPORE MEETING OF ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS

REF: STATE 20410

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FEBRUARY 17 STRAITS TIMES (ST) REVEALED THAT ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEET IN SINGAPORE ON FEBRUARY 16 "TO GIVE FINAL TOUCHES TO THE PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT THEY SIGNED (SIC) IN MANILA LAST MONTH". ACCORDING TO ST, THE MEETING WAS ARRANGED ON SHORT NOTICE TO SETTLE A NUMBER OF STILL OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS SO THAT IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO POSTPONE THE FEBRUARY 24-25 FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN MANILA. PROBLEMS SAID TO BE FOCUS OF MINISTERS' ATTENTION INCLUDE "LOCAL CONTENT AND PRODUCTS WHICH QUALIFY FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT, EXPORT AND RE-EXPORT,
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PRIMARY PRODUCTS, TAX REDUCTIONS ON EXPORTS".

2. NATIONAL DELEGATIONS WERE HEADED BY HON SUI SEN (SINGAPORE), WIDJOJO NITISASTRO (INDONESIA), VICENTE PATERNO (PHILIPPINES), DATUK HAMZAH BIN ABU SAMAH (MALAYSIA) AND SUTHEE NATVARATAT (THAILAND). END UNCLASSIFIED.

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3. BEGIN LOU. MFA DIRECTOR REGIONAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS,
LEE CHIONG GIAM, CONFIRMED ESSENCE OF PRESS REPORT TO E/C
COUNSELOR. LEE STATED THAT AGREEMENT ON INSTRUMENTS FOR TRADING
PREFERENCES HAD BEEN INITIATED BY MINISTERS, IMPLYING THAT
ANY EXISTING DISAGREEMENTS HAD BEEN SETTLED.

4. LEE SAID THAT MINISTERS DISCUSSED ASEAN-JAPANESE DIALOGUE,
PARTICULARLY QUESTIONS RELATING TO JAPANESE FINANCING
OF ASEAN INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS AND INCREASED ACCESS TO JAPANESE
MARKET FOR ASEAN MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS. LEE NOTED THAT MINISTERS'
THINKING ON THESE ISSUES WOULD NOW NEED TO BE ELABORATED AND
REFINED AT WORKING LEVEL PRIOR TO PRESENTATION TO GOJ.

5. ACCORDING TO LEE, MINISTERS ALSO FOCUSSED ON ASEAN-EC
SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULED FOR BRUSSELS FROM APRIL 4-6. (FYI EC
COMMISSION OFFICIAL HANSEN RECENTLY MADE SWING THROUGH
ASEAN TO DISCUSS APRIL SESSION). IT WAS DECIDED THAT IN BRUSSELS
ASEAN MINISTERS WOULD AVOID NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND THAT
SINGAPORE'S FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM (CHAIRMAN OF ASEAN
STANDING COMMITTEE) WOULD LEAD OFF BY MAKING KEYNOTE SPEECH
DESIGNED TO PROVIDE SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS WITH ASEAN'S BACKGROUND,
ACHIEVEMENTS AND OBJECTIVES. SUBSEQUENTLY, TRADE-/INDUSTRY
MINISTERS FROM OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES WOULD DELIVER FUNCTIONAL
RATHER THAN COUNTRY-ORIENTED PRESENTATIONS.
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# Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009
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**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
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**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** N/A
**Errors:** N/A
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**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** EXTRAORDINARY SINGAPORE MEETING OF ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS
**TAGS:** EGEN, ETRD, EINV, OCON, SN, ASEAN
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
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